

Background

The **Feminist Task Force** of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty, the **Loretto Community at the United Nations**, **Eco Justice Collaborative**, **Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Organization** and **Citizens Against Ruining the Environment** have partnered to present today's proceedings, the second Women and Climate Justice Tribunal in the United States.



This Tribunal follows a long line of Women's Tribunals that have taken place around the world over the last several years, spearheaded by the Feminist Task Force.

The Tribunals have been used to create a public space for women to draw attention to critical issues at local, national and global levels. They provide an opportunity for women directly affected by different situations, such as poverty, climate change and gender inequality, to present testimony, bring awareness and advocate for fundamental human rights.

Findings from this Tribunal will be presented in June at the Rio +20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Chicago Metro Area

Women & Climate Justice Tribunal



June 10th, 2012 • Sacred Heart Church, Joliet, IL • 2 - 6 PM

A Special Thanks to:

Father Lescher & Deacon Ralph Bias of Sacred Heart Church, Chuy Negrete, Sacred Heart Church Choir & Director David Jones, DePaul University's Women's Center, Greenpeace, Jan & Kathy Kaiser of Cool Joliet, the Loretto Community, the Loretto Women's Network, the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 8th Day Center for Justice, Lan Richart of EcoJustice Collaborative (videographer), Suellen Spooner of CARE (baked goods), Grant Spooner of CARE (videographer), and Edyta Sitko of Greenpeace (press work).



Eco-Justice Collaborative
Living Responsibly for the Earth and All People



feminist task force

Loretto
at the UN

P.E.R.R.O.
Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Organization



C.A.R.E.

Chicago & Coal

- Women from the Joliet and Lockport area have been working for 20 years to call attention to and stop the pollution from two area coal plants and the quarry waste disposal site. They have been breathing harmful emissions from two polluting coal fired power plants in Will County; one of these plants is in Romeoville and the other is in Joliet.
- Women in the historic African-American Smiley subdivision live next to an unlined coal ash landfill known as Lincoln Stone Quarry, where coal waste has been dumped since 1962.
- Women from Pilsen and Little Village have been breathing air from two of the oldest and dirtiest coal plants in the nation and their recent grass-roots efforts helped bring about their closure. Although the plants will close by the end of this year, properties remain toxic and polluted.

These Chicago women, from different backgrounds and different neighborhoods, have all been witnesses to the harmful impacts of coal on their lives and communities. Join us as we hear their testimony.

Jurists

For today's proceedings, a distinguished panel of jurists will respond to the witness's testimony and offer recommendations.

Jacqui Patterson

Director of the NAACP Climate Justice Initiative, Co-Founder of Women of Color United (WOCU), and a Chicago native



Marta Benavides

Leader of Movimiento Siglo XXIII, Co-Chair of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), and Global Peace Activist



Brian Perbix

Grassroots Organizer, Illinois coal pollution issues with Prairie Rivers Network.



Kelly Mitchell

Coal Campaigner and Grassroots Organizer at Greenpeace



Program

- **Welcome:** Deacon Ralph Bias
- **Introductions:** Ellen Rendulich of Citizens Against Ruining the Environment (CARE) & Pam Richart of Eco-Justice Collaborative
- **Global Women's Tribunals:** Rosa Lizarde, Feminist Task Force



Case 1: Local Impacts of Coal Plants in Joliet & Romeoville

Case leader: Ellen Rendulich, Resident & Director of Citizens Against Ruining the Environment.

Expert Witness: Brian Urbaszewski, Dir. of Environmental Health, Respiratory Health Assoc. of Metro. Chicago

- Ardis Doolin, Resident & CARE Member
- Carol Stark, Resident & Director of CARE
- Mary Burnitz, Resident & Director of CARE
- Maureen Headington, Stand Up Save Lives



- **Music Intercession by:** Sacred Heart Church Choir



Case 2: Impacts of Coal Ash Disposal

Case Leader: Sandy Burcenski, Director of CARE

- Juanita Stokes, Resident
- Kathy Kaiser, Cool Joliet & Sacred Heart Church
- Sandy Burcenski, Resident & Director of CARE



- **Music Intercession by:** Chuy Negrete



Case 3: Fisk & Crawford Coal Plant Remediation

Expert Witness: Jerry Mead-Lucero, Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Org.

- Leila Mendez, PERRO
- Stephanie Dunn, Pilsen Resident
- Marta Aguila, Pilsen Recent



- **Looking Forward:** Sally Dunne, Loretto Community at the UN
- **Closing Remarks:** Pam Richart

